

Communities in Dialogue

Facilitating a Citizens' Panel for Schools

Supporting schools in Northern Ireland to give a voice to young people from newcomer and minority ethnic backgrounds.



Awareness raising with schools

Is your school ethnically diverse?

Do you have pupils from minority ethnic and / or newcomer backgrounds?

Would you like to give these pupils a voice and ensure that key members of the community & local politicians hear and learn from their experiences, challenges and achievements?

Do you wish to offer your young people the opportunity to influence positive change in the local community?



What's it all about?

An opportunity for young people from newcomer and minority ethnic backgrounds to share their experiences

A chance for young people to speak openly, honestly and engage with the wider school community and local representatives

A way of generating ideas to ease and improve the integration process for young people from newcomer and minority ethnic backgrounds



Images from the first Citizens' Panel carried out in North Belfast in 2010





What next?

Two Citizens' Panel Events

Oakgrove Integrated College, Derry
event planned for 10 December 2012

Integrated College, Dungannon
12 February 2013



Oakgrove IC Citizens' Panel

- Morning event – 10 December 2012
- Event managed by Oakgrove's Unity Team
- Area Learning Community Partner Schools invited
- Focus on racism, sectarianism, homophobia

Running order:

- youth presentations / personal stories
- showcase of Unity Team activity
- small group discussion (facilitated by you)
- questions (generated by groups) put to the invited panel
- lunch
- second small group discussions (facilitated by you)
- recommendations and suggestions
- closing thoughts and remarks



Your commitment as facilitator

- Attend half day training and a further meeting before the Integrated College Dungannon event
- Facilitate small group discussion based on a consistent set of questions
- Any notes gathered from the discussion to be typed up and emailed to the co-ordinator within 10 days
- Participate in the full event/s



Oakgrove IC Citizens' Panel 10 December 2012

- 10.00 am Coffee / tea & registration
- 10.15 am Opening & Welcome: John Harkin VP Oakgrove IC -
Personal stories from 3 students - Presentation of
Unity Team activity
- 10.35 am Introductions in small groups & initial reflections
- 10.45 am BREAK
- 11.00 am First facilitated discussion in small groups - 1 question
generated by each group for external panel
- 12.00 am External Panel Q & A
- 12.45 pm LUNCH – global café
- 1.30 pm Second facilitated discussion in small groups -
recommendations - proposed actions / solutions
- 2.30 pm Closing thoughts & letter to self



Oakgrove IC Citizens' Panel Notes for Facilitators

10.35–10.45am

Introductions in small groups & initial reflections
for just 10 minutes:

- Introduce yourself to the group
- Facilitate a quick ice breaker to enable the group members to introduce themselves
- Ask for initial thoughts on hearing the students' personal stories
- What impact did it have on them?
- Record their thoughts on a flip chart

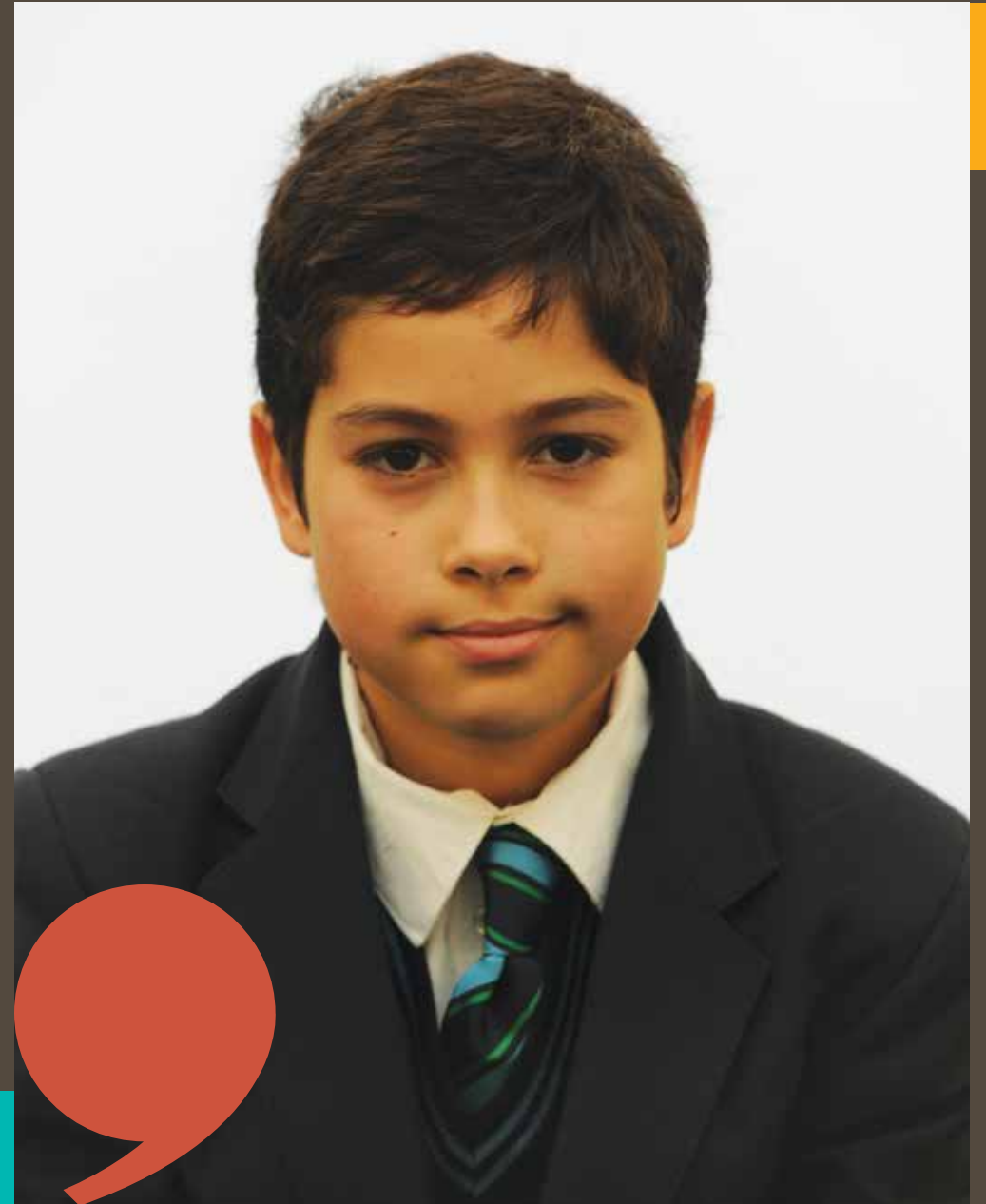


Oakgrove IC Citizens' Panel Notes for Facilitators

11.00am - noon

First facilitated discussion in small groups for 50 minutes:

- Following on from the chat before break, what do you remember most from the personal stories you heard?
- Why do you think young people from minority backgrounds are sometimes treated differently / badly in this community?
- What needs to happen to help these young people feel welcome and included in school?
- What should be done to enable these young people to have success in a career or academically once they leave school?
- What needs to happen outside school, in the community, to help them feel welcome and included?



Oakgrove IC Citizens' Panel Notes for Facilitators

1.30 – 2.30pm

Second facilitated discussion in small groups

- What do you think the school can initiate or do to help young people from minority backgrounds feel included, welcomed and part of the school?
- What can you personally do to help young people from minority groups feel included / welcomed / part of the community?
- How can you ensure action is taken after today?
Generate a written list of - recommendations - proposed actions / solutions

Notes should be recorded from each discussion group.

